

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 26, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 1 has now been amended by incorporating the subject matter of dependent claim 8. Claim 8 and its immediate parent claim, claim 7, have therefore been canceled. Analogously, claim 9 has now been amended to incorporate all of the limitations particular to each of dependent claims 17 and 18. Claims 17 and 18 have likewise been canceled. Claim 19 has now been amended in a manner analogous to that of method claim 1. Claims 1-6, 9-16 and 19-20 are now pending, of which the independent claims 1, 9 and 19 remain. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 6,064,764 to Bhaskaran et al. ("Bhaskaran").

Claim 1, as amended, now recites:

wherein the digital signature has a plurality of digits, the transform representation of the image includes a plurality of blocks that each have at least one high frequency coefficient and step (D) includes assigning a value to one coefficient in each block that corresponds to one of the digits of the signature; and
wherein there are a greater number of blocks in the image representation than there are digits in the signature and step (D) further includes repeating the coefficient values corresponding to the signature a number of times such that each block includes a coefficient having a value corresponding to a signature digit

This claimed technique is discussed in the specification (e.g., page 9, lines 3-7).

The Bhaskaran reference fails to disclose or suggest the repeating recited in the above-cited limitations of claim 1 of the present invention.

The Office Action (see, for example, item 6) is silent on this matter.

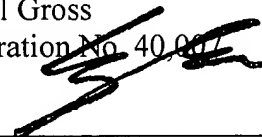
The cited reference fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 1, at least because the reference lacks disclosure of the claim limitation regarding the repeating step. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has now been amended to incorporate all of the limitations particular to each of dependent claims 17 and 18, and therefore likewise recites, “the signature embedding module repeats the coefficient values corresponding to the signature a number of times such that each block includes a coefficient having a value corresponding to a signature digit.” Claim 9 is thus believed to distinguish patentably over the cited reference for at least the same reason set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Claim 19 has now been amended in a manner analogous to that of method claim 1, and is likewise patentable for at least the aforementioned reasons.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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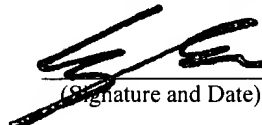
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 6/28/04
(Signature and Date)